

Weekly Column for September 22, 2005

If you could not guess the topic of this week's column, you were either under a rock, or you do not live near Hoosick Street. For those that were asleep under the proverbial rock, it was quite a week for the busiest road in our City.

Shortly after 4 p.m. on Monday we received word that there was a water main break at the intersection of 15th Street and Hoosick Street. In all honesty, I could not think of a worse time or place for a water main break. Unfortunately, our fears were quickly realized as the water caused significant damage to the road and we had to close it down immediately.

As you now know, our crews worked throughout the evening in an attempt to get the road opened by Tuesday evening. All of the people did a marvelous job. The leak was fixed, the road repaved, and all was ready to go. And then it happened.

Just up the road, about a block and half away, another pipe burst. This one took place a bit east of 17th Street and it occurred in the overnight hours, as we were getting ready to reopen Hoosick Street. The best laid plans...

Thankfully, an on duty police officer, manning a barricade near Burdett Avenue, saw the water flowing and we attended to the problem immediately. But it was back to work for dozens of employees who probably won't want to drive on Hoosick Street for a long time. They worked throughout the day and into the night in an effort to have the road open for the morning commute today. They did.

This morning at 5 a.m. Hoosick Street was open to traffic. If you're doing the math, we had two major water main breaks on the busiest street this side of the Hudson River in a three-day span. We dug up two large sections of the road, and repaved all of it by Thursday morning. It was not easy, but it is one of the reasons I love the City of Troy. Our employees are dedicated and get the job done.

The entire situation was unfortunate, not only for people who use the road on a daily basis, but for those who live and work in the area. We want to thank everyone for his or her patience and understanding. It was not easy, but we worked hard and got the job done.

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy